



**Office of the United States Attorney  
District of Arizona**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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For Information Contact Public Affairs

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# **HUSBAND AND WIFE PLEAD GUILTY IN GOLD COIN SCAM**

PHOENIX -- The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on June 29, 2005, Gene Lee Miller, age 47 and Grace Marie Miller, age 54, both of Phoenix, AZ, pleaded guilty to Mail Fraud, a violation of Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 1341, in federal district court in Phoenix.

The Millers, a husband and wife, in their guilty plea proceeding before United States District Court Judge Earl H. Carroll, admitted to having operated Southwest International Trading, Inc., a company engaged in the sale of gold and silver coins for investment purposes. They acknowledged to having devised a scheme during the early part of 2000, to obtain their clients' numismatic coins in return for interest bearing promissory notes. The coins were purportedly going to be used in the defendants' business and were to be returned at the end of the loan period. However, the coins with a value in excess of \$400,000.00 were sold by the Millers without the owners' permission to other coin dealers. The proceeds from the sale of the coins were used by the Millers for business and personal expenses.

A conviction for Mail Fraud at the time of the offense carried a maximum penalty of 5 years imprisonment, a \$250,000.00 fine or both. In determining an actual sentence, Judge Carroll will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Sentencing is set before Judge Carroll on September 26, 2005.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the United States Postal Investigation Service.

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The prosecution is being handled by Richard I. Mesh, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-04-0811-PHX-EHC  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2005-123

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